APPENDIX

Vol. 31, No. 39 September 29, 1972

REPORT OF VISIT TO CHINA
June 1-18, 1972
by Chi Wang

Chi Wang, Assistant Head of the Chinese and Korean Section of the Orientalia Division in the Library of Congress, was on leave from December 1970 to August 1972 to serve as University Librarian of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. While he was on leave, the China Travel Service in Hong Kong arranged a visit to Canton, Hangchow, Shanghai, and Peking so that he could tour Chinese libraries, universities, and bookstores. The following is his report on the visit.

I entered Shum-chun, the gateway to China from Hong Kong, on June 1. I returned to Hong Kong on June 18. During these 18 days I visited Canton, Hangchow, Shanghai, and Peking. The primary purpose of my visit was to see Chinese libraries, universities, and bookstores.

CANTON (June 1-4)

Upon arriving in Canton, I was met by two Chinese officials, one of whom was Yang Kuo-wei, a member of the National Travel Bureau. Subsequently, an official from the Foreign Ministry in Peking, was assigned as my official guide during the entire trip. In Canton I visited the following institutions: The Peasant Movement Institute (established by Mao Tse-tung in 1926), The Canton Museum, Chung-shan University and its libraries, Chung-shan Medical College and its hospital, and the Hsin-hua Bookstore.

When I visited Chung-shan University on June 2, a group of university officials, including the Vice Chairman of the University's Revolutionary Committee, was waiting for me in front of the administration building. (Virtually every institution in China at the present time has a Revolutionary Committee, which discusses and to a considerable extent determines policies to be followed.) During this visit I also met Professor P'u Chih-lung, a well-known biologist, who received his Ph. D. degree in the United States, and now is a member of the University's Revolutionary Committee. Li Chieh, the Vice Chairman of the Committee, recounted the history of the University and outlined recent developments. The University, which was closed during the Cultural Revolution and was reopened in 1970, now has about 1,000 students.

Liang Ch'ao-wu, the University Librarian, told me that the University's collections total more than 1.9 million volumes, of which some 1.2 million volumes are Chinese publications. In the periodical reading room I saw a considerable number of new Chinese journals and a number of provincial and local newspapers. At present, two local newspapers are published in Canton, *Nan fang jih pao* (Southern Daily) and *Kuang-chou jih pao* (Canton Daily). I also visited the reading room of the Biology Department. The collection in this room is quite impressive; it holds current issues of *Biological Science Abstracts* and other important Western reference works.

The Hsin-hua Bookstore is located in the downtown area of Canton. According to Mr. Wu the Vice Chairman of the Bookstore's Revolutionary Committee, more than 1,500 current titles are available in his stock. I did not question this information; I observed, however, that there were hundreds of titles in this bookstore which are not available in the bookstores of Hong Kong. Mr. Wu also told me that about 50 journals are published at the present time, but that most of these are for domestic circulation only. In the bookstore I saw issues of some 20 journals, including *Hsin hua yüeh pao* (1972, no. 3). I purchased some 30 current monographs and issues of two periodicals: *K'o hsüeh shih yen* (Scientific Experimentation) and *Kung-tung wen i* (Kwangtung Literature). The latter title began publication in Canton this year and is not available in Hong Kong.

HANGCHOW (June 4-6)

I visited the following places during my brief stay in Hangchow: the West Lake Commune (a Commune widely know for its production of green tea), "The East Is Red" Textile and Silk Factory, Hsüeh chün High School (the "Learn from the Liberation Army" High School), Hua kang Park (the beautiful park where President Nixon planted a red pine during his visit. I saw the small plant and it seems to be growing very nicely), and Ling-yin-shih (Ling-yin Temple, a celebrated Buddhist temple which was built during the Sung Dynasty).

Hangchow, which is a provincial capital with a population of some 700,000, has five universities and

colleges: Chekiang University, Chekiang Medical College, Chekiang Teachers' College, Chekiang Engineering College, and Hangchow Institute of Fine Arts.

I visited the Hsüeh chün High School on June 6 and spent the entire morning there. The school now has more than 1,200 students; in 1969 it reduced its program from six to four years. The instructors told me that the textbooks in use now were prepared by teachers from various high schools in Chekiang Province and were published after the Cultural Revolution, mostly by the provincial Committee for Revolutionary Education. Each cover page carries the three Chinese characters "shih yung pen" ("experimental edition").

SHANGHAI (June 6-9)

I stayed in the Peace Hotel (formerly the Cathay Hotel) where many Westerners and several Americans were also staying. The Chinese authorities arranged for me to visit the following places: Futan University and the Futan University Library, the Shanghai Industrial Exhibition Center, the Shanghai Number One Iron and Steel Factory, the Cultural Palace for Youth, the site where the First National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party was held in July 1921 (this is located in the former French Concession), the Workers' New Village, and the Hsin-hua Bookstore. (My guide informed me that the Shanghai Library is still "temporarily closed," but he expected that it would reopen in the near future.)

Futan University, which is one of the largest and best-known universities in China, is located in the Chiang-wan area, about 10 miles from the city. I was greeted there by T'an Chia-chen, the Vice President of the University, and Professor Liu Ta-chieh, a leading authority on Chinese literature. (His well-known work, *Chung-kuo wen hsüeh shih* (A History of Chinese Literature), is available in the Library of Congress.) Dr. T'an, who is known in China as a prominent geneticist, received his Ph. D. in the United States during the Second World War and returned to China in 1948. I also met several younger teachers, the University Librarian, and several members of the University's Revolutionary Committee.

Before the Cultural Revolution, Futan University had more than 6,500 students. Although it was closed during the Cultural Revolution, it reopened in 1969 with fewer than 60 students; at present the enrollment is more than 1,800. Its Faculty of Arts has seven departments, the Faculty of Sciences, six. According to officials of the University's Revolutionary Committee, the University had a five-year academic program before the Cultural Revolution, but currently has a three-year program on an experimental basis. It may be changed to a four-year program if experience demonstrates that this is desirable.

During the visit I also met Ts'ai Tsu-ch'uan, a celebrated electrical engineer who has not received any formal education but whose achievements were widely publicized in China during the 1960's. He is a prominent member of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Chairman of the University's Revolutionary Committee, and the director of an electronics laboratory in the University.

The University Library is located in a fairly large building and seems well organized. Mr. Chang, the University Librarian, told me that the Library has a collection of more than 1.5 million volumes, of which some 300,000 are in Western languages. The Library staff of about 100 is organized into five departments: Ordering and Cataloging, Reference and Circulation, Serials, Editorial and Translation, and Binding and Preservation. In addition to the University Library, the various academic departments have reading rooms of their own. For Western publications, the Library uses the Dewey Decimal Classification. The Library's Chinese books are classified according to the widely-used system developed by Liu Kuo-chün. Since the end of the Cultural Revolution, the book stacks have been open to students.

The Hsin-hua Bookstore in Shanghai is a two-story building, with scholarly and technical books on the second floor. I purchased several current titles which I had not seen in the Hsin-hua Bookstore in Canton, and I also noted with interest that many of the current titles published by the Kwangtung People's Press—works which I had seen in Canton—are not available in the Hsin-hua Bookstore in Shanghai. One of the works I purchased was *Ya p'ien chan cheng* (The Opium War), prepared by the Historical Research Group of the Futan University and published in Shanghai in May of this year. I also purchased two other recently published works on Chinese history: *Ch'in shih-huang* (The First Emperor of the Ch'in Dynasty) and *Ch'en Sheng Wu Kuang* (Chen Sheng and Wu Kuang). The second work concerns two rebellious peasants during the Ch'in Dynasty. All three of these works, none of which is available in Hong Kong, are written in a popular style.

From personal observation in the Shanghai Hsin-hua Bookstore, I came to believe that China is gradually resuming normal publishing activities. The works available are by no means limited to books and publications by Mao Tse-tung or about him; books pub-

lished before the Cultural Revolution are also available for sale. In fact, some of the customers whom I saw were buying *San kuo chih yen i* (The Romance of the Three Kingdoms), *Shui hu chuan* (Water Margin), and other recently revised editions of traditional Chinese novels.

PEKING (June 9-17)

Liu Ch'i-yün, the Director of the National Library of Peking and concurrently the Vice Chairman of the Library's Revolutionary Committee, and Yen Ch'eng, Chief of the Office of Library Operations of the Library, greeted me at the Peking Airport. They escorted me to the Peking Hotel, one of the best-known hotels in China, located only one block away from the famous T'ien-an men Square. Professor John Fairbank of Harvard University and Mrs. Fairbank were also staying in this hotel at the time.

Between June 10 and June 17 I visited the following institutions and places in Peking: the Palace Museum, National Library of Peking, Peking University and the University Library, Tsinghua University and the University Library, The East Is Red May 7th Cadre School, the Hsin-hua Bookstore and its affiliated branches, Chung-kuo shu tien (China Bookstore), Jung-pao-chai (a store famous for antiques, paintings, and traditional Chinese books, located in the Liu-li-ch'ang District), the University and College District in the western suburbs of Peking, the Peking Zoological Park, the Peking subway, and the Tung-an Market (Eastern Peace Market) recently renamed East Wind Market.

In Peking, my two prime objectives were: to find out whether the Peking Library is interested in establishing an exchange program with the Library of Congress, and to find out whether Peking is ready to invite a group of American librarians to visit China. I discussed these questions with the Director of the National Library of Peking, with officials of the Foreign Ministry, and with Wang Yeh-ch'iu, the Deputy Minister of the Cultural Group of the State Council. Mr. Wang, one of the leading officials in cultural affairs in China today, invited me for dinner several times. To one of these dinners he invited many top-ranking officials in the cultural field, including Chou P'ei-Yüan, Vice Chancellor of the Peking University, and Wu Tsung-ch'ao, Director of the Palace Museum.

On June 15, the Chinese officials informed me that China is willing, for the present time, to send publications to the Library of Congress as gifts. I advised them that I would relay their suggestions to the proper authorities in the Library of Congress. Although this exchange of gifts is not an ideal arrangement for regular exchange between LC and the Peking Library, it will be the first step in that direction.

In discussing with Chinese officials the possibility of American librarians visiting China, I handed them a letter which Foster E. Mohrhardt of the Council on Library Resources, Inc. sent to me last March, in which he indicated that some American librarians are very interested in such a visit. They said that they are in favor of this, but need more time to consider the matter.

On the same day, Wang Yeh-ch'iu brought me two recent Chinese publications: *Wen hua ta ko ming ch'i chien ch'u t'u wen wu–ti i chi* (Ancient relics unearthed during the Cultural Revolution Period, volume 1) and *Ssu ch'ou chih lu* (The Silk Route). I accepted these handsome volumes with many thanks, and told him that I was most grateful for his kindness and hospitality. In addition, Mr. Wang gave me another work, *Li Po yü Tu Fu* (1972 edition), by Kuo Mo-jo, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and concurrently Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress. The book is autographed by the author, who asked Mr. Wang to present it to me as a personal gift. Later in the evening Mr. Wang brought to the Peking Hotel several recently produced documentary films. Together we previewed these films, one of which deals with ancient Chinese relics; another outlines developments in the use of acupuncture.

On Monday, June 12, I visited the Palace Museum and the Imperial City. Since the museum is closed on Mondays, the Chinese Government had made special arrangements for me to visit it. I was greeted and taken on a special guided tour by Wu Tsung-ch'ao, Director of the Palace Museum and Liu Kuan-min of the Institute of Archeology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences. According to Mr. Liu, during the Cultural Revolution China's archeological workers, with the support of the workers, peasants, and soldiers, unearthed a large number of antiquities. Some 1,900 of these precious cultural objects, selected from among the finds in 11 provinces, cities, and autonomous regions are at present on exhibit in the Museum. During this visit I saw the widely publicized Han period jade clothes sewn with golden wire, which were discovered in the summer of 1968.

On the same day I visited the National Library of Peking where I met several officials of the Library. Located in central Peking, this is the National Library and the largest library in China. Its building is of

traditional Chinese design and is quite impressive. I had a long discussion with the Director and his colleagues which opened with the remark that I was the first American librarian to visit the Peking library in more than 20 years. The Library has a collection of more than nine million volumes, most of which are in the Chinese language; more than two million of these volumes are considered rare. At the present, some 500 persons are working in the Library, which was closed during the Cultural Revolution but recently reopened. Except for the establishment of a Revolutionary Committee, which determines many major policies, the general administrative structure of the Library is similar to that of the years before 1966. The collections were not damaged by the Red Guards, as had been reported by some newspapers in the Western world.

One of the major problems of the Library at the present time is the shortage of space, with the result that many of the Library's pre-1949 holdings are deposited in several other locations in Peking. Plans are being drawn up for an annex which will be three or four times as large as the present library building, but it will probably be some years before this is completed. In addition to the annex, the Chinese Government is planning to construct a separate library in Peking to house all serial publications.

Turning to the Library's international exchange program, the Director said that the Peking Library now has exchange agreements with more than 3,400 institutions and libraries in some 128 nations and regions. Approximately 150 of these institutions—including university libraries, learned societies, research laboratories, and the New York Public Library—are located in the United States. Mr. Liu stated that China does not have a library association at the present time.

Under current government regulations, each publisher is required to send three copies of each new title to the Peking Library. As a result, almost every title published in China, including journals and newspapers, is available in the Library. The National Library of Peking currently uses several classification systems for different portions of its Chinese collections, including the *Ta hsing t'u shu kuan fen lei fa* (The Classification System for Large Scale Libraries) and the *Chung-kuo jen min ta hsüeh t'u shu kuan fen lei fa* (The Classification System of the Chinese People's University Library), but the staff is trying to develop a classification system for Chinese books which will be suitable for all libraries in China. There is a cooperative cataloging program with several major libraries in China, and a program to supply printed cards.

I had opportunities to visit the various reading rooms, stack areas, and offices, to talk with circulation clerks, to examine the catalogs of the Library, and to tour the new stack areas built during the 1950's. Following the tour, we returned to the main conference room where I presented to the Director three LC publications on the MARC project and *Lunar Rocks* (a publication given to me by the Cultural Affairs Officer of the American Consulate in Hong Kong). As a personal gift, the Director presented to me two Chinese books: *Liu wen chih yao* by Chang Shih-chao (a former teacher of Mao Tse-tung), and *Wen hua ta ko ming ch'i chien ch'u t'u wen wu–ti i chi.* (I had already received a copy of this second title from Mr. Wang Yeh-ch'iu.) I told the Director that I would in turn present these two important Chinese publications to the Library of Congress so all Americans interested in Chinese civilization would be able to use them. I also expressed my hope that normal book exchanges between LC and the Peking Library could be resumed in the near future.

On June 13 I visited Peking University, which is located in a western suburb of Peking on the campus formerly occupied by Yenching University. I was greeted by Chou P'ei-yüan, the Vice Chancellor of the University; Chou I-liang of the History Department who received his Ph. D. degree from Harvard University; Kuo Sung-nien, the University Librarian; and four members from the University's Revolutionary Committee. Reopened in 1970, the University now has more than 4,000 students. It is expected that this number will increase to 10,000 within the next two years. There are now 17 departments, and more than 2,100 faculty and staff members. I toured the University campus and various departments and observed that the former Yenching University campus is just as beautiful as it was 24 years ago.

The University Library occupies a large building built in the traditional Chinese style located near the administration building. This may well be the best university library in China today; it has a collection of more than 2.7 million volumes. I was informed that the University is planning to construct a new library building in the near future. Again, I saw current issues of many of the most important American journals in the Periodical Reading Room.

Tsinghua University, which may be the best technical institute in China, is located near Peking University. Chang Wei, Vice Chairman of the University's Revolutionary Committee and an expert on mechan-

ics, Shih Kuo-heng, Librarian of the University, and three other professors met me at the entrance. Dr. Chang and his colleagues gave me a guided tour of the campus, various departments, the machine shops, the laboratories, and the University Library.

The Library has a collection of 1.3 million volumes, most of which pertain to science and technology. In addition to the central library, each department has its own reading room. Professor Shih (who was educated in the United States) told me that the Library uses the Dewey Decimal Classification System for its Western collections. He also told me that all foreign books purchased by libraries in China must be handled by the Wai wen shu tien (Foreign Languages Bookstore) in Peking. The main reading room was packed with students.

In Peking I also visited the Hsin-hua Bookstore and the Chung-kuo shu tien (China Bookstore). The Hsin-hua Bookstore in this city is in a recently completed building on Wang-fu-ching Avenue, about one block away from the Peking Hotel. It is the largest Hsin-hua Bookstore in China. Affiliated with it are several other bookstores in this area including the Wai wen shu tien (Foreign Languages Bookstore), the K'o chi shu tien (Science and Technology Bookstore), and several others. It appeared to me that the Peking Hsin-hua Bookstore had in stock more current titles than any other bookstore which I visited in China. Again, I purchased several current titles. I told my guide that I would like to purchase every title in the bookstore and send them back to the Library of Congress. He smiled. On the same street is located a Pao-k'an-t'ing (Pavilion for newspapers and periodicals). I understand that there are many pavilions of this type in Peking, and that all major newspapers and periodicals published in China may be purchased there.

On June 16, the day before I left Peking, I visited the Chung-kuo shu tien (China Bookstore), located in the Liu-li-ch'ang District, along with many antique shops and stores dealing in second hand books. The Chung-kuo shu tien is not so large as most of the Hsin-hua Bookstores, but in it, in addition to current Chinese titles, I saw many non-current titles published before the Cultural Revolution. In fact, hundreds of titles published before 1949 are available there, along with many Chinese books in the traditional format. The two items I purchased were *T'ang shu ping chih chien cheng* (Corrections to the Treatise on the Army in the History of the T'ang Dynasty) by T'ang Ch'ang-ju (Peking, Chung-hua shu chü, 1962, 126 p.); and a map of China, *Chung-hua jen min kung ho kuo ti t'u* (Peking, Ti t'u ch'u pan she, December 1971, 6th ed.). For librarians who wish to acquire non-current Chinese publications (including old journals), the Chung-kuo shu tien would seem to be an excellent source.

While I was in Peking I was also invited to participate in two discussion meetings, both of which were held in the Peking Hotel. One of the meetings was held on the evening of June 14, with more than 40 participants from the Peking Library, the Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Peking University, Tsinghua University Library, and two faculty members from the Department of Library Science of Wuhan University. During this session we exchanged general information on the libraries of our two countries.

The evening of Friday, June 16, my last day in Peking, Wang Yeh-ch'iu and several of his subordinates came to my hotel to say goodbye. Mr. Wang invited me to visit China again, and I thanked him for his kind hospitality.

On Saturday morning, June 17, we drove to the Peking Airport. Seeing me off at the airport were: Liu Ch'i-yün, Director of the Peking Library, Yen Ch'eng, Chief of the Office of Library Operations, my official guide from the Foreign Ministry, and several other persons.

FROM CANTON TO HONG KONG (June 17-18)

During my last evening in Canton, I visited the Nan-fang ta hsia, the largest department store in Canton. Yang Kuo-wei accompanied me to Shum-chun, the border town between China and Hong Kong. We took the morning train on June 18 and two hours later arrived in Shum-chun. The Chinese officials asked two persons from the railroad station to carry my luggage to the Hong Kong side. I expressed my sincere thanks to Mr. Yang for his kindness in making this special trip from Canton to Shum-chun.

Mr. Yang said: "Please come to visit us again soon." After I said goodbye to him, I crossed the same bridge that I had walked over only 18 days earlier.